

Sketch

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Rift

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couldn't stand
sharing with a stranger
less bright and committing
and chubby and bald
than he.

He couldn't stand
sharing a bed
with somebody
who had Merlot
on her breath
smeared pink
lipstick
caught in the cracks

around her lips,
and condoms
in her purse
where the kids'
pictures should be—
a soccer mom
playing hardball,

combing tangled lies,
alone
in the morning.

Rift

by Margaret Okere

Sound of river murmur
memory of his voice
music once more from the time
when stars streamed
from her fingertips
in ribbons of night
and she stepped from her skin
as if leaving behind
the bark of a tree.